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Agenda

- Court structure
- Anatomy
- Dockets
- Vocabulary
- Free sources
- Very low cost sources
- Value added sources
- How to cite



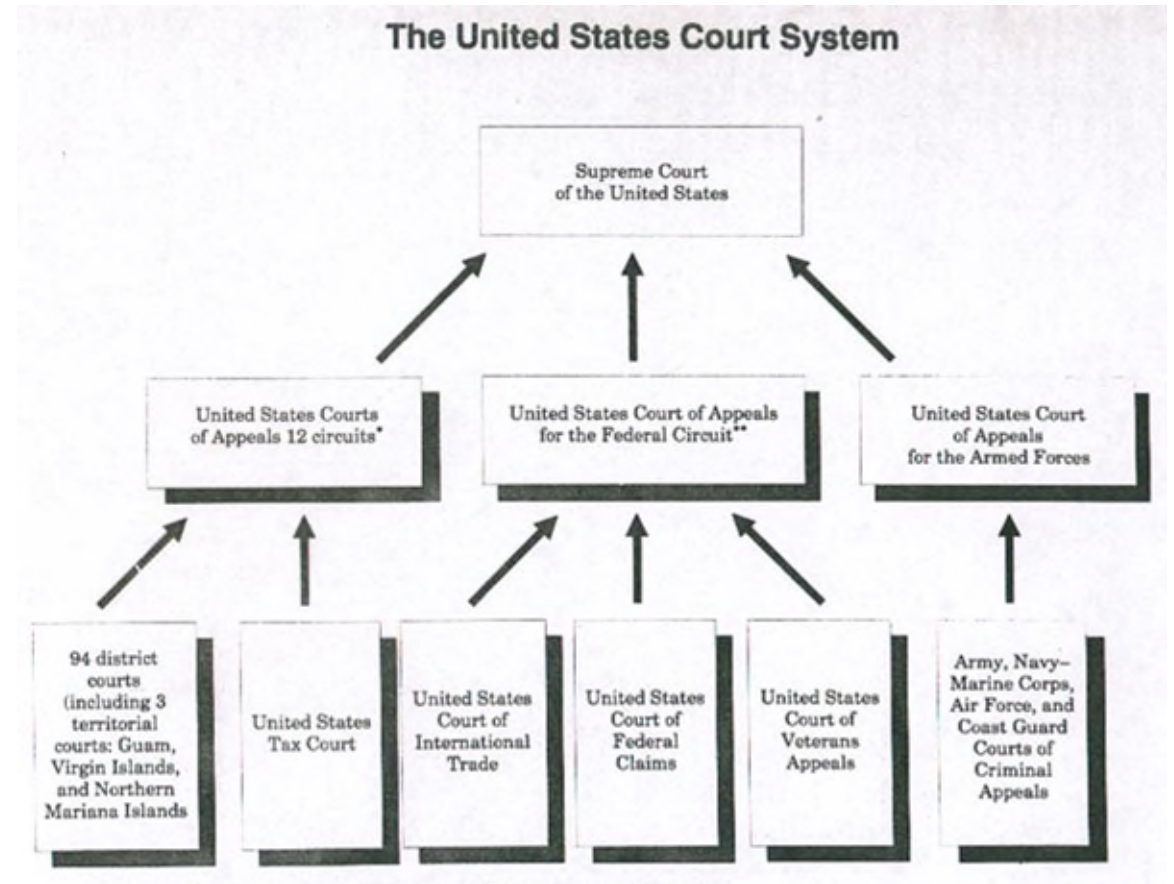
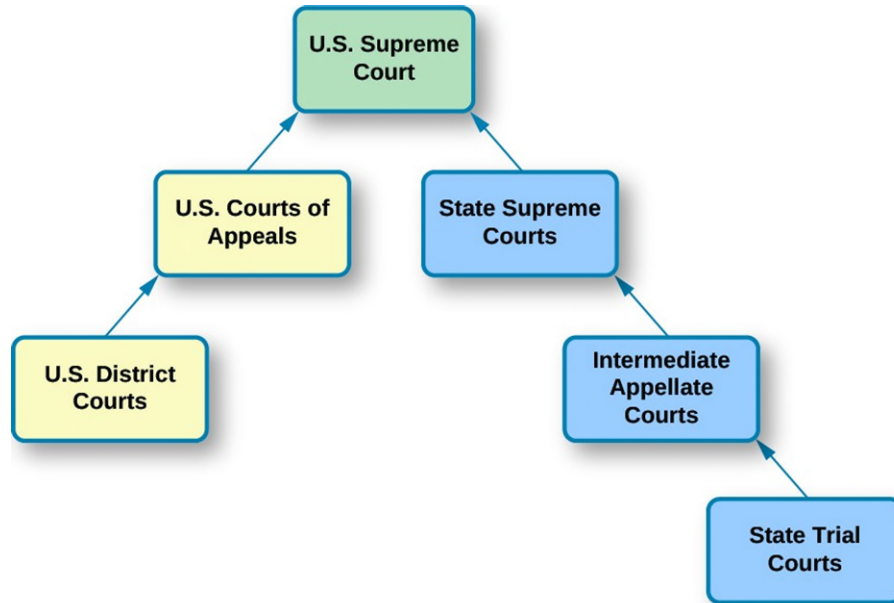
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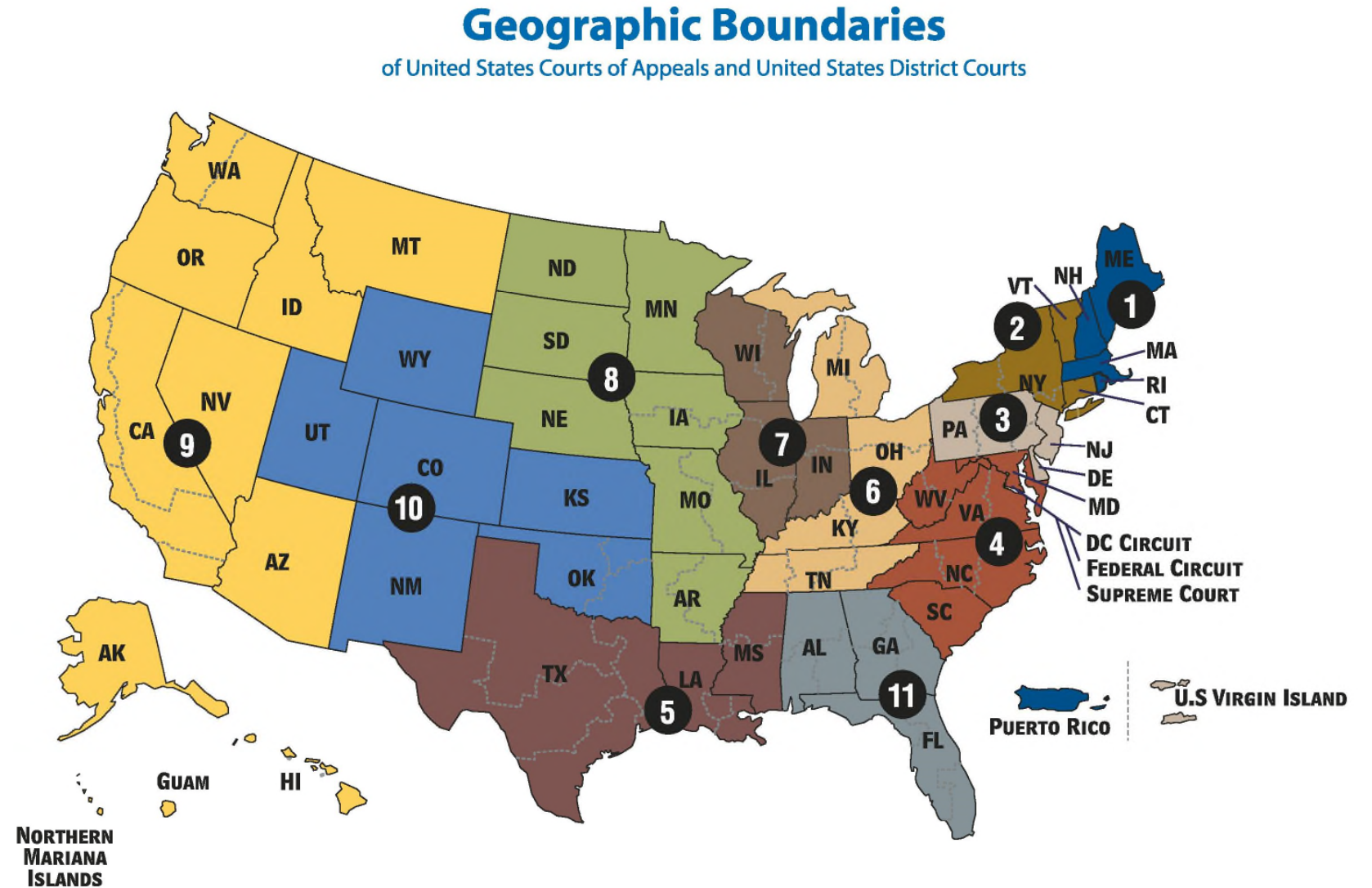
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Court structure



Federal courts



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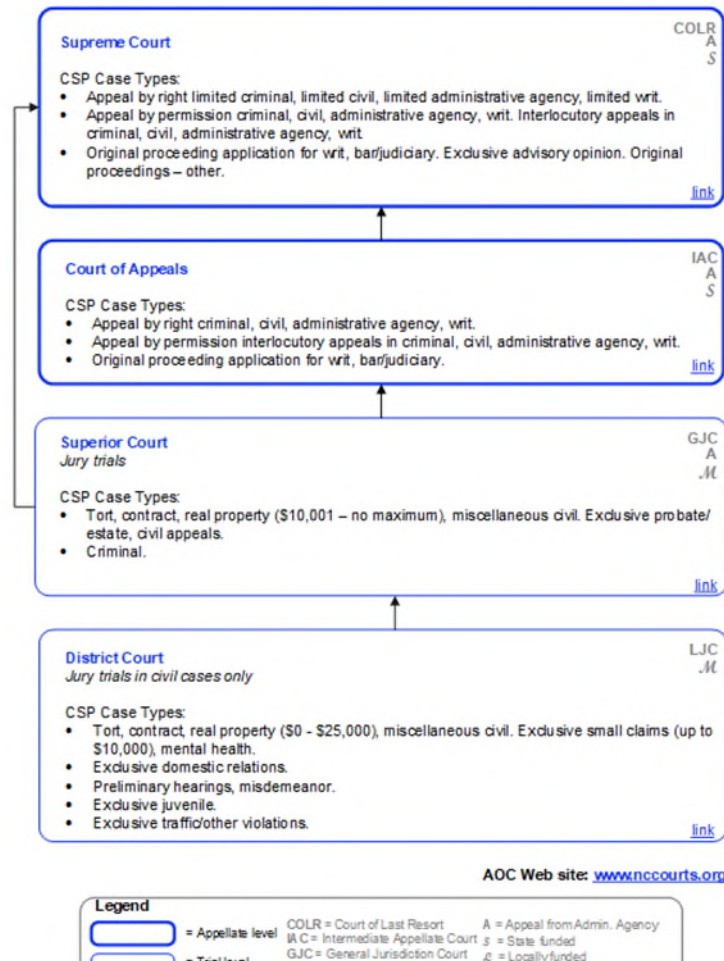
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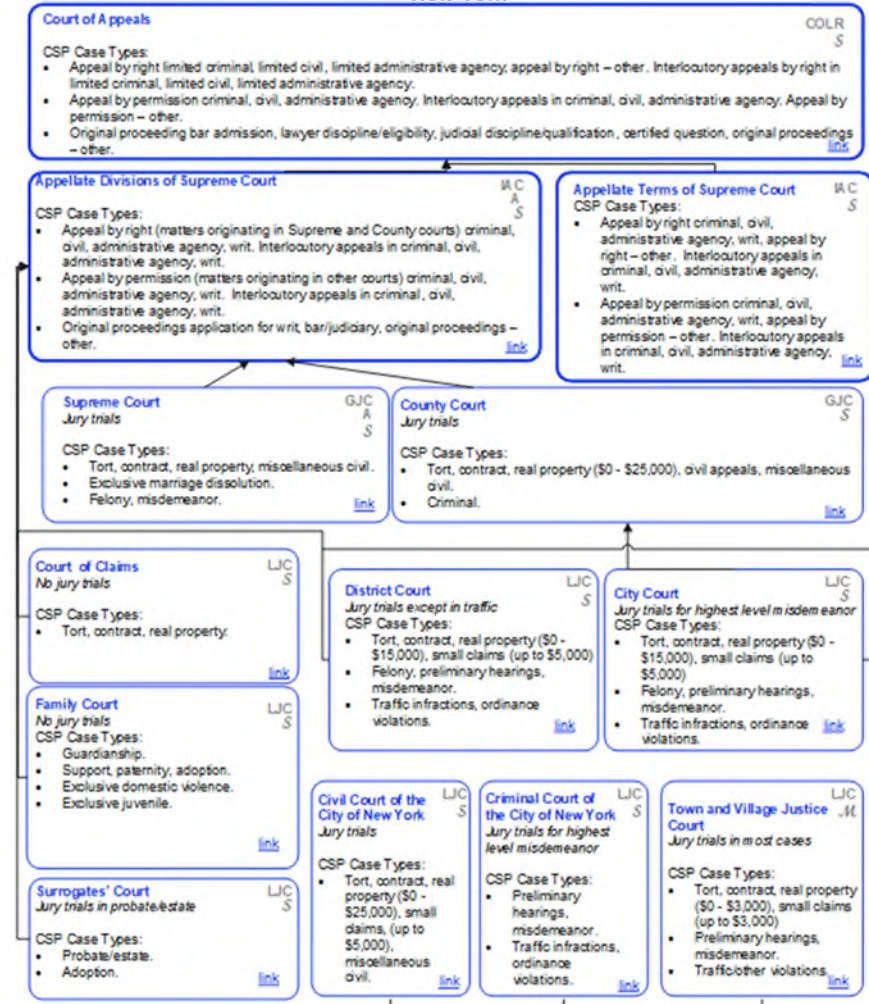
State courts – North Carolina

North Carolina

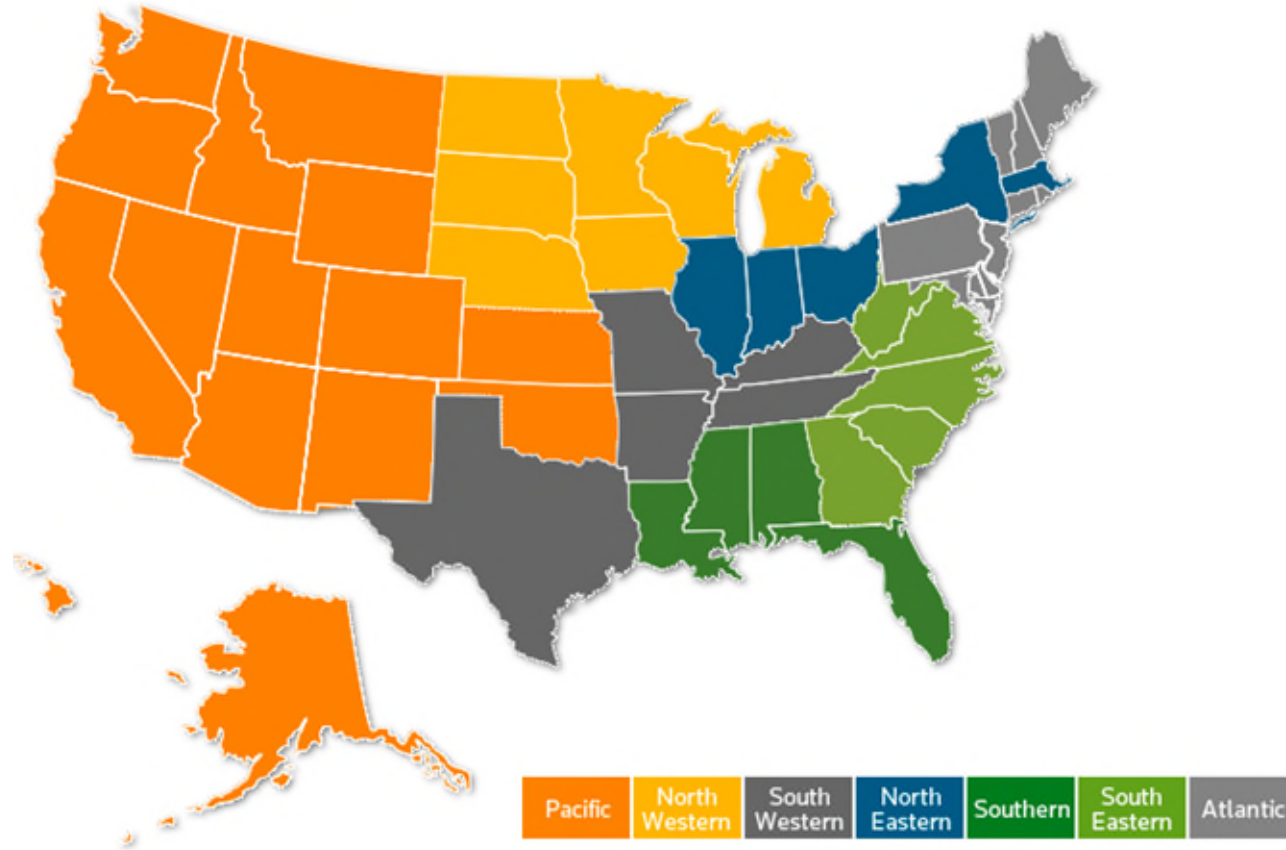


State courts – New York

New York



West Regional Reporter System



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Anatomy & components of a case

- 1 - Citation to official & official reporters
- 2 - Citation to this reporter
- 3 - Case name
- 4 - Parties
- 5 - Docket number
- 6- Date decided
- 7 - Synopsis
- 8 - Conclusion
- 9 - Headnotes/Digest
- 10 - Opinion

U.S. v. Nixon, 418 U.S. 683 (1974)
94 S.Ct. 3090, 41 L.Ed.2d 1039

94 S.Ct. 3090
Supreme Court of the United States

UNITED STATES, Petitioner,
v.
Richard M. NIXON, President
of the United States, et al.
Richard M. NIXON, President
of the United States, Petitioner,
v.

UNITED STATES.

Nos. 73—1766, 73—1834.

|
Argued July 8, 1974.

|
Decided July 24, 1974.

Synopsis

Prosecution of former government officials and presidential campaign officials for conspiracy to defraud United States and to obstruct justice, and for other offenses, wherein special prosecutor caused third-party subpoena duces tecum to be issued directing the President to produce tape recordings and documents relating to conversations with aides and advisors. The United States District Court for the District of Columbia, denied the President's motion to quash subpoena, 377 F.Supp. 1326, and an appeal was taken. Certiorari before judgment was granted to bring matter before Supreme Court before disposition by Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court, Mr. Chief Justice Burger, held that dispute was justiciable; that District Court was not shown to have erred in determining that special prosecutor's showing of relevancy, admissibility, and specificity was sufficient to warrant issuance of order; and that President's generalized interest in confidentiality, unsupported by claim of need to protect military, diplomatic, or sensitive national security secrets, could not prevail against special prosecutor's demonstrated, specific need for the tape recordings and documents.

Affirmed.

Mr. Justice Rehnquist did not participate.

****3095** Syllabus*

***683** Following indictment alleging violation of federal statutes by certain staff members of the White House and political supporters of the President, the Special Prosecutor filed a motion under [Fed.Rule Crim.Proc. 17\(c\)](#) for a subpoena duces tecum for the production before trial of certain tapes and documents relating to precisely identified conversations and meetings between the President and others. The President, claiming executive privilege, filed a motion to quash the subpoena. The District Court, after treating the subpoenaed material as presumptively privileged, concluded that the Special Prosecutor had made a sufficient showing to rebut the presumption and that the requirements of [Rule 17\(c\)](#) had been satisfied. The court thereafter issued an order for an in camera examination of the subpoenaed material, having rejected the President's contentions (a) that the dispute between him and the Special Prosecutor was nonjusticiable as an 'intra-executive' conflict and (b) that the judiciary lacked authority to review the President's assertion of executive privilege. The court stayed its order pending appellate review, which the President then sought in the Court of Appeals. The Special Prosecutor then filed in this Court a petition for a writ of certiorari before judgment (No. 73—1766) and the President filed a cross-petition for such a writ challenging the grand-jury action (No. 73—1834) The Court granted both petitions. Held:

1. The District Courts order was appealable as a 'final' order under [28 U.S.C. § 1291](#), was therefore properly 'in' the Court of Appeals, [28 U.S.C. § 1254](#), when the petition for certiorari before judgment was filed in this Court, and is now properly before this Court for review. Although such an order is normally not final and subject to appeal, an exception is made in a 'limited class of' ***684** cases where denial of immediate review would render impossible any review whatsoever of an individual's claims.* *United States v. Ryan*, [402 U.S. 530, 533, 91 S.Ct. 1580, 1582, 29 L.Ed.2d 85](#). Such an exception is proper in the unique circumstances of this case where it would be inappropriate to subject the President to the procedure of securing review by resisting the order and inappropriate to require that the District Court proceed by a traditional contempt citation in order to provide appellate review. Pp. 3098—3099.

2. The dispute between the Special Prosecutor and the President presents a justiciable controversy. Pp. 3100—3102.

(a) The mere assertion of an 'intra-branch dispute,' without more, does not defeat federal jurisdiction. *United States v. ICC*, [337 U.S. 426, 69 S.Ct. 1410, 93 L.Ed. 1451](#). P. 3100.

Basic citation form

- United States v. One 1987, 808 F. Supp. 382 (D.N.J. 1992)
Plaintiff v. Defendant, volume, reporter, page, court, & date
- Jones v. Smith, 145 NY3rd 234 (2018)
Plaintiff v. Defendant, volume, reporter, page, & date
Court not needed if the clear from the reporter name

Parallel citations sometimes required when reported in both official and regional or unofficial reporter.

Sometimes citation is only available to an online source which will replace the volume, reporter & page, e.g, 2010 BL 245394, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 13039, or 2005 WL 2709572

Published cases - Federal

- Supreme Court - www.supremecourt.gov

United States Reports (official), Supreme Court Reporter (West), US Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers Ed (Lexis), US Law Week (BNA), etc.

- Federal Court of Appeals – Court web site & www.pacer.gov
www.ca2.uscourts.gov/decisions.html

Federal Reporter (1880+) & Federal Appendix (2001+)

- Federal District Court – www.pacer.gov
Federal Supplement (1932+)

- Specialized reporters – Federal Rules Decisions, Bankruptcy Reporter, etc.

Published cases - State

- Official state reporters – often now designated West reporter
- West Regional reporter system
- West state reporters
- Official online sources
- Unofficial online sources
- Alternative sources – loose-leaf services, topical reporters, & newspapers

Dockets

- Federal – PACER

www.pacer.gov/

- RECAP Project

<https://free.law/recap/>

- Justia

<https://dockets.justia.com/>

- National Center for State Courts

<https://www.ncsc.org/topics/access-and-fairness/privacy-public-access-to-court-records/state-links.aspx>

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Vocabulary

- Stare Decisis – doctrine that decisions of a court are binding authority on that court and lower courts of same jurisdiction - precedents should be followed
- Ratio Decidendi – holding or principle of law which the case was decided - authoritative
- Dictum (Obiter Dictum) – said by the way – incidental comment that is not binding - other than the part of opinion setting forth the decision plus material facts
- Case on all fours/case in point – rule that case will be binding on lower court considering your case
- Persuasive – case not binding but might adopt depending upon reputation of court and quality of opinion
- Official reports – sanctioned by statute or rule usually produced under government supervision
- Unofficial reports – commercial or private publications

Unpublished & Unreported cases

Unpublished Case

- Court decide that not available for citation as precedent because lacking precedential value.
- Court placed a citation limitation on the opinion – there is typically some language in the document that provides explicit instructions on when the case can and cannot be cited to, or a reference to a court rule that delineates that information
- Court has rendered the opinion not citable or court will not release the opinion to the public or the publisher has received the case from the court with a notice that it is unpublished
- Active debate on fairness of non-publication and value since easy access with online databases

Unreported Case

- An unreported case has not been published in a hard copy reporter series.
- Can have case that is unreported (editors of the hard copy reporters have chosen to not include a case), but the court has not placed any limitations on the citation to or the publication status of the opinion.
- Unpublished Federal Court of Appeals cases are included in the hard copy reporter Federal Appendix. When Fed. Appx. is the only hard copy reporter cite on the case, that case is considered Unreported.

Ellen Platt, Unpublished vs. Unreported: What's the difference?, 5 Perspectives 26 (Fall 1996)
<https://info.legalsolutions.thomsonreuters.com/pdf/perspec/1996-fall/1996-fall-8.pdf>

Free sources

- Google Scholar – www.google.com/scholar/
- AnyLaw – www.anylaw.com
- FindLaw – www.findlaw.com
- Justia – www.justia.com
- Public Library of Law – www.plol.org (created by Fastcase)
- Cornell University Law School – Legal Information institute – www.law.cornell.edu – also most law school library websites
- Case.Law - Harvard Law School Library – www.case.law
- Recap – orders/opinions on Pacer – www.courtlistener.com

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Supreme Court | <input type="checkbox"/> Appellate Div. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California | <input type="checkbox"/> Supreme Court |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appellate Div. | <input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Court of Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> Court of Appeals |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Customs Court | <input type="checkbox"/> SD Illinois |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tax Court | <input type="checkbox"/> ND Indiana |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Tax Appeals | <input type="checkbox"/> SD Indiana |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1st Circuit | <input type="checkbox"/> ED Wisconsin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Court of Appeals | <input type="checkbox"/> WD Wisconsin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy Courts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> 8th Circuit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> Court of Appeals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Puerto Rico | <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Rhode Island | <input type="checkbox"/> D. Nebraska |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy Courts | <input type="checkbox"/> D. North Dakota |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy Appellate Panel | <input type="checkbox"/> D. South Dakota |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Court of Appeals | <input type="checkbox"/> WD Arkansas |

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[COMMITTEE FOR ENVTL. SOUND DEV. v. AMSTERDAM AVE. REDEVELOPMENT ASSOC. LLC](#)

2019 NY Slip Op 30621 - NY: Supreme Court, 2019 - Google Scholar

... to issue building permit number 122887224-01-NB, dated September 27, 2017 (Permit), authorizing respondent-defendant Amsterdam Avenue Redevelopment Associates LLC (Developer) to construct (Project) a 55-story tower (New Building) at 200 Amsterdam Avenue ..

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none of these words:

Put a minus sign just before words you don't want:
-rodent, -"Jack Russell"

numbers ranging from:

to

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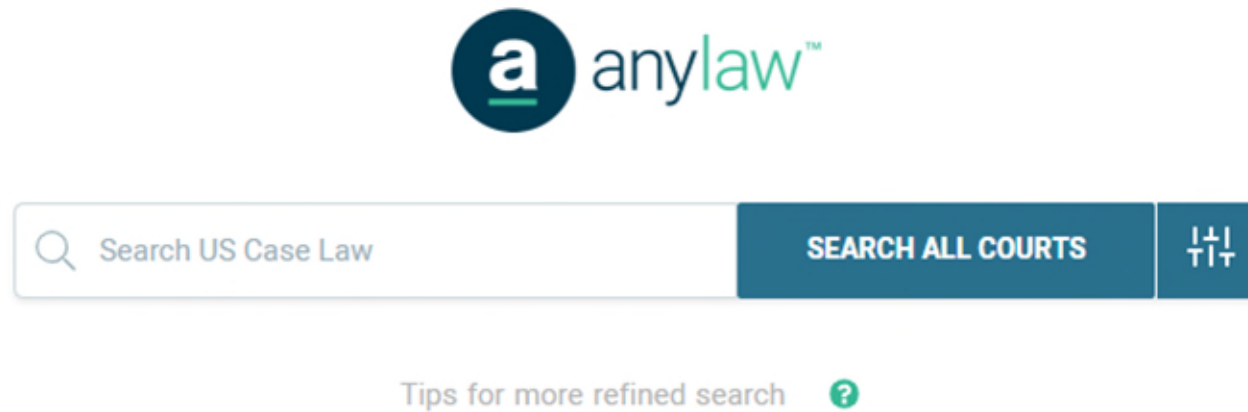
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AnyLaw advanced searching tips

Here's how to get more nuanced and relevant search results:		
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Both terms must be present	and	trademark and infringement
Either term must be present	or	trademark or infringement
Exclude a term	not	trademark not infringement
Enclosed quotation (exact match)	" "	"trademark infringement"
Unidirectional search, left to right: in armed robbery w/5 gun, "gun" occurs to right of "armed robbery."	w/#	armed robbery w/5 gun
Bidirectional search: in armed robbery near:5 gun, "gun" occurs to either to right or left of "armed robbery."	near:x	armed robbery near:5 gun
Grouping search terms	()	(bike or scooter) w/3 (injury or accident)
Expand root word by any number of letters	!	liab! yields <i>liable</i> or <i>liability</i>

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- ☒ 8th Circuit (2)
- ☒ 9th Circuit (1)
- ☒ 10th Circuit (1)

340 Cases Found

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☆ Storey v. Cello Holdings

347 F.3d 370 (2003) | Cited 107 times

... PLEADINGS AND MOTIONS IN THE INSTANT ACTION On March 7, 2001, Cello filed an answer, signed by both Herrick, Feinstein LLP and Odin, Feldman & Pittleman, P.C., setting forth legal defenses, factual contentions ...In a letter dated April 13, 2001 from Herrick, Feinstein LLP (the "April 13 Letter"), Cello raised a defense to this res judicata argument, alleging that the September 25 Letter "was the basis for the ...The district court also imposed sanctions against both Cello and its counsel, appellants Herrick, Feinstein LLP and Odin, Feldman & Pittleman, P.C. ...

☆ Congregation Yetev Lev D'Satmar of Kiryas Joel

11 Misc.3d 1055(A) (2006) | Cited 0 times

... Mollen in support of the motion by defendant Congregation Yetev Lev D'Satmar, Inc. for an order finding that Herrick Feinstein LLP and Rider Weiner & Frankel, P.C. are Authorized to Represent it in this ...action dated October 17, 2005; 20. the reply affirmation of Jacob Schoenfeld in support of the motion by defendant Congregation Yetev Lev D'Satmar, Inc. for an order finding that Herrick Feinstein LLP ...The law firms of Rider, Weiner & Frankel, P.C. and Herrick, Feinstein LLP appeared on behalf of the Brooklyn Congregation. ...

☆ Clear Channel Spectacolor Media L.L.C. v. Times Square JV LLC

16 Misc.3d 1141(A) (2007) | Cited 0 times

... (22 NYCRR 1200.24), Herrick Feinstein has a conflict of interest. ...Herrick Feinstein's affiants further aver that Herrick Feinstein did not receive confidential information from CIF, nor provide legal advice to CIF, as an individual client. ...Here, CIF is not a direct client of Herrick Feinstein, but is at most a "vicarious" client through its ownership interests in the JVs that Herrick Feinstein does represent. ...

☆ HAROLD KLAPPER v. CHARLES M. GURIA ET AL.

582 N.Y.S.2d 892 (1992) | Cited 0 times

... Plaintiff, and defendants Herrick & Feinstein, and Schizer & Schizer are practicing attorneys. ...Herrick & Feinstein represented Stereo in that lawsuit. ...Plaintiff has failed to state a cause of action against Herrick & Feinstein. Dr. ...

☆ Herrick

297 A.D.2d 477 (2002) | Cited 2 times

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US Federal Register

US Supreme Court

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US Federal District Courts Cases

US Federal Court Dockets & Case Filings

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Alaska Law

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Arkansas Law

California Law

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Maine Law

Maryland Law

Massachusetts Law

Ohio Law

Oklahoma Law

Oregon Law

Pennsylvania Law

Puerto Rico Law

US Supreme Court (1759 - present)

US Federal Courts of Appeals

Reported Opinions From the US Federal Courts of Appeals

- Federal Reporter, 2nd Series (F.2d) (1924-1993)
- Federal Reporter, 3rd Series (F.3d) (1993-present)
- Bankruptcy Reporter (B.R.) (1980-present)
- Federal Reporter, 2nd Series (F.2d) (1924-1932)
- Federal Supplement (F. Supp.) (1933-1998)
- Federal Supplement, 2nd Series (F. Supp. 2d) (1998-present)

Public Library of Law (PLoL) - www.plol.org

The screenshot shows the PLoL website with a navigation bar at the top containing tabs for Case Law, Statutes, Regulations, Court Rules, Constitutions, and Legal Forms. Below this is a search bar with a "Search" button and a radio button for "All Jurisdictions". A link for "Advanced Options" is also present. A box below the search bar offers "RSS feeds for Recent Decisions" for U.S. Supreme Court, State and Federal District Courts. The main content area on the left welcomes visitors and lists available resources: Cases from the U.S. Supreme Court and Courts of Appeals, Cases from all 50 states back to 1997, Federal statutory law and codes from all 50 states, and Regulations, court rules, constitutions, and more. It also mentions free links to paid content on Fastcase. A "Bookmark" button is at the bottom left. On the right, a sidebar titled "RESOURCES FOR GETTING STARTED" includes links to the PLoL User Guide, tutorials for finding cases and statutes, and more resources. Below this, an "ABOUT OUR SPONSOR" section features the Fastcase logo and text explaining that PLoL is brought to you by the same people who created Fastcase, a next-generation legal research system.

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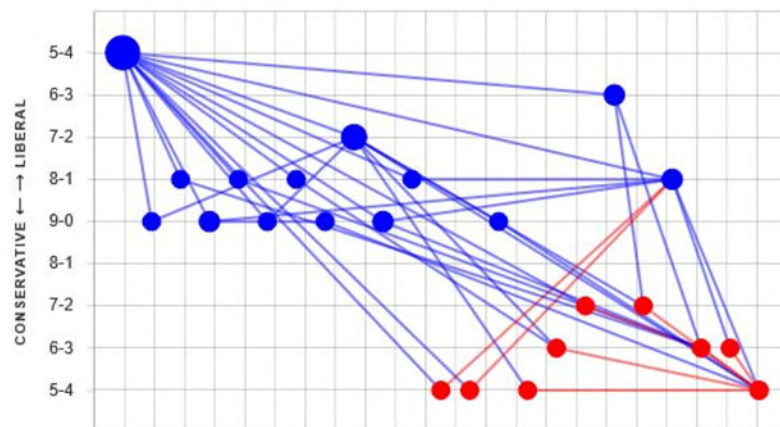
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All of our work is open source, creating a rich culture of [staff](#) and volunteers.

Supreme Court Network Visualizations

Supreme Court Network Visualizations allow you to see and analyze lines of precedent in Supreme Court cases.



The Numbers

3,656,180	Number of precedential opinions in CourtListener.
2,661	Opinions added in last ten days.
1,524	Duration of all oral arguments in CourtListener, in days.
207	Oral arguments added in last ten days.
176,156	Number of queries made in last ten days.
9,153	Number of alert emails sent in last ten days.
470,808	API calls made against our system in last ten days.

Very low cost sources

- Fastcase – www.Fastcase.com
- Casetext – (Stanford Center for Legal Informatics) – www.Casetext.com
- VersusLaw – www.versuslaw.com
- Ravel Law – <https://home.ravellaw.com/>
- Casemaker – <https://public.casemakerlegal.net>

Value added sources

- Bloomberg
Law
- LexisNexis
- Westlaw

Bloomberg Law[™]



THOMSON REUTERS
WESTLAW[™]

How to cite

- The Bluebook
- The Maroonbook
- ALWD Guide to Legal Citation
- State specific citation manuals

New York State Official Reports
Style Manual

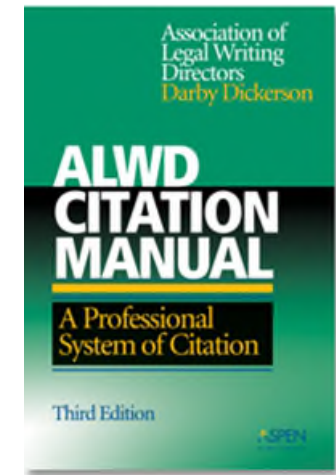


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2019

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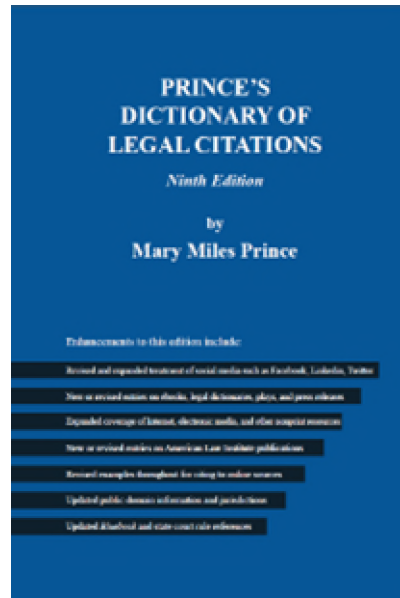
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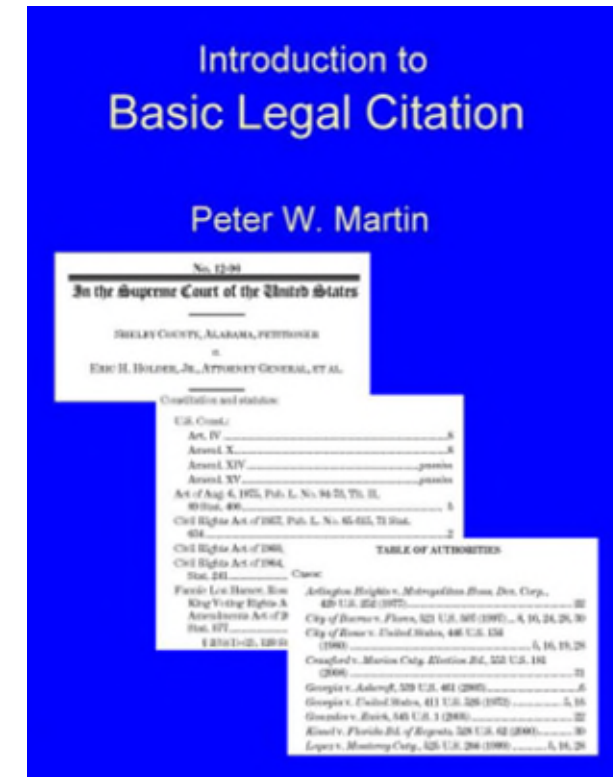
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Useful resources on citations



<https://www.wshein.com/blog/2017/03/02/princes-dictionary-of-legal-citations-a-reference-guide-for-attorneys-legal-secretaries-paralegals-and-law-students-ninth-edition/>



<https://www.cali.org/books/introduction-basic-legal-citation>

General resources

- Morris Cohen & Robert Berring, Finding the Law or How to Find the Law
- Roy Mersky & Donald Dunn, Legal Research Illustrated
- William Manz, Gibson's New York Legal Research Guide



Case law

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